



Virginia
Regulatory
Town Hall

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Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) Agency Background Document

Agency name	Department of Education
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) citation	8 VAC 20-131-10 et seq.
Regulation title	<i>Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia</i>
Action title	Amendments to the <i>Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia</i>
Document preparation date	January 2005

This information is required for executive review (www.townhall.state.va.us/dpbpages/apaintro.htm#execreview) and the Virginia Registrar of Regulations (legis.state.va.us/codecomm/register/regindex.htm), pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act (www.townhall.state.va.us/dpbpages/dpb_apa.htm), Executive Orders 21 (2002) and 58 (1999) (www.governor.state.va.us/Press_Policy/Executive_Orders/EOHome.html), and the *Virginia Register Form, Style, and Procedure Manual* (http://legis.state.va.us/codecomm/register/download/styl8_95.rtf).

Purpose

Please describe the subject matter and intent of the planned regulatory action. Also include a brief explanation of the need for and the goals of the new or amended regulation.

Section 22.1-253.13:3 of the Code of Virginia requires the Board of Education to establish standards for accreditation. The regulations were last amended in 2000. Since that time, public schools in Virginia have implemented more rigorous requirements for accountability both at the school level and the student level. Now that most Virginia schools are fully accredited, and the first high school class required to earn verified units of credit has graduated from high school, it is time for a comprehensive review of the regulations to determine if there are changes that might be needed.

Legal basis

Please identify the state and/or federal source of legal authority to promulgate this proposed regulation, including (1) the most relevant law and/or regulation, including Code of Virginia citation and General Assembly bill and chapter numbers, if applicable, and (2) promulgating entity, i.e., the agency, board, or person. Describe the legal authority and the extent to which the authority is mandatory or discretionary.

Section 22.1-253.13:3 of the Code of Virginia states: “The Board of Education shall promulgate regulations establishing standards for accreditation pursuant to the Administrative Process Act (§ [2.2-4000](#) et seq.), which shall include, but not be limited to, student outcome measures, requirements and guidelines for instructional programs and for the integration of educational technology into such instructional programs, administrative and instructional staffing levels and positions, including staff positions for supporting educational technology, student services, auxiliary education programs such as library and media services, course and credit requirements for graduation from high school, community relations, and the philosophy, goals, and objectives of public education in Virginia.

Substance

Please detail any changes that will be proposed. For new regulations, include a summary of the proposed regulatory action. Where provisions of an existing regulation are being amended, explain how the existing regulation will be changed. Include the specific reasons why the regulation is essential to protect the health, safety, or welfare of citizens. Delineate any potential issues that may need to be addressed as the regulation is developed.

A comprehensive review of the Standards of Accreditation will be conducted. The regulations will be examined in their entirety, including the requirements for student achievement; the school instructional program; school and instructional leadership; school facilities and safety; school and community communications, and school accreditation.

Alternatives

Please describe all viable alternatives to the proposed regulatory action that have been or will be considered to meet the essential purpose of the action.

No specific alternatives to amending these regulations have been considered.

Family impact

Assess the potential impact of the proposed regulatory action on the institution of the family and family stability.

The proposed amendments to the regulations are not expected to have an impact on the institution of the family and family stability.